



WASHINGTON AREA BICYCLIST ASSOCIATION

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December 21, 2010

Arthur Holmes, Jr.  
Director  
Montgomery County Department of Transportation  
101 Monroe Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Mr. Holmes:

I write on behalf of the Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA) in support of alternative 2B as the locally preferred alternative (LPA) for the MD 355/Rockville Pike Crossing Study.

As the Montgomery County Planning Board noted in its letter to you on December 14, as between the deep elevator and the shallow tunnel elements, the deep elevator element of alternative 2B appears to be the more effective at reducing pedestrian travel times and reduces almost as many pedestrian conflicts. A bank of larger, higher speed elevators also would improve access to Metro for bicyclists.

WABA believes that at-grade improvements to facilitate bicycle and pedestrian movements across the roadway for those not traveling to and from the Metro station should be considered whether or not the tunnel is built. While we support safer and more convenient access to Metrorail, we are concerned about the effects of a tunnel crossing on driver behavior and traffic speeds at other nearby intersections, including Cedar Lane and Jones Bridge Road. The elevator and tunnel elements must be considered in the context of a broader effort to improve safety in the 355 corridor for bikes and pedestrians. Consequently, we believe the elevator element should receive priority in any funding decision.

Sincerely,

Shane Farthing  
Executive Director